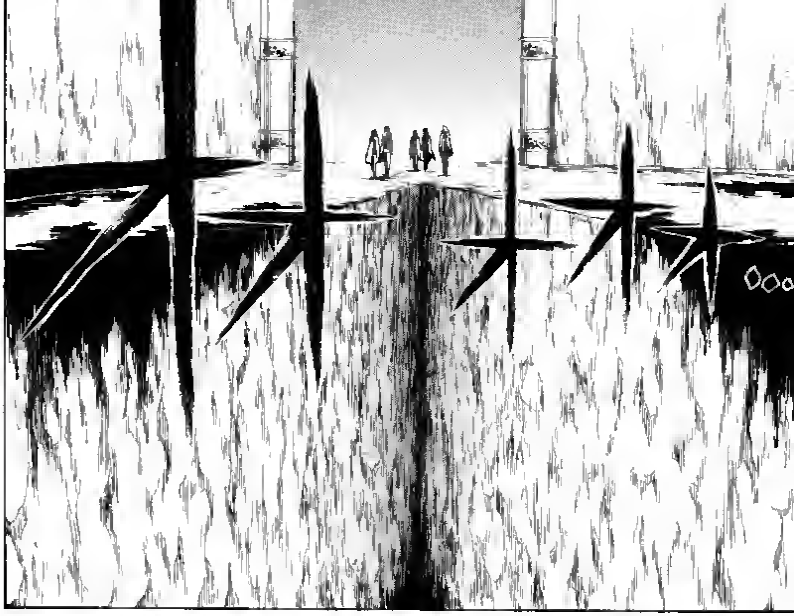
第6話
Metropolis



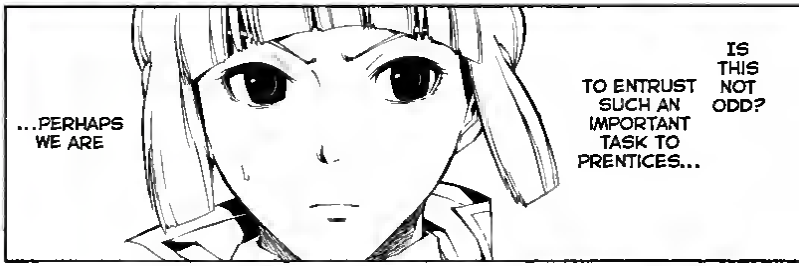
...IM-PRESS-IVE.
YS MADE THIS WITH A SINGLE STRIKE...

—Some hours ago...
The Monastery, in the Eastern Kingdom of Mikado...

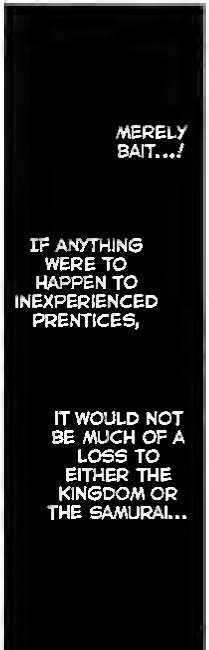
I SEE...
!
HE IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION, BUT,
HOPE YET LIVES.
I SEE YOU ARE ALL PRESENT.
...FIRSTLY, A REPORT.
Hugo's Subordinate
Gabby
Abbot of the Monastery
Hugo
THE SITUATION IS EXCEEDINGLY GRAVE
THE INSTIGATORS AMOUNT TO TWO HERETICS
THE BLACK SAMURAI AND
YS, THE SEDITIOUS
THE OBJECTIVES AND MOTIVES OF THIS PAIR ARE UTTERLY UNKNOWN TO US.
HOWEVER, WE CANNOT LEAVE THOSE WHO WOULD IMPERIL THIS COUNTRY
TO THEIR OWN DEVICES.
THEREFORE
ALL OF YOU ARE ORDERED
TO ARREST YS, THE TRAITOR...!

……!
WE WOULD LIKE YOU ALL TO MAKE YOUR WAY "UNDER-GROUND."
YOUR GROUP WILL PURSUE HIM.
WE ARE HAVING THE BLACK SAMURAI INVESTIGATED BY OTHERS.

ARREST YS? ...US?
!!


...PERHAPS WE ARE
TO ENTRUST SUCH AN IMPORTANT TASK TO PRENTICES...
IS THIS NOT ODD?

AND WE WILL CAPTURE YS, WITHOUT FAIL.
HENCEFORTH WE SHALL MAKE FOR THE UNDERGROUND
...UNDER-STOOD.
THIS IS FAR TOO DANGER-OUS—
!?


MERELY BAIT...!
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO INEXPERIENCED PRENTICES,
IT WOULD NOT BE MUCH OF A LOSS TO EITHER THE KINGDOM OR THE SAMURAI...

WAI JONATHAN!?
YOU—
I AM AWARE, ISABEAU
THAT THIS IS A MISSION BEYOND OUR CAPABILITIES
...BUT EVEN IF WE REFUSE THIS HARDSHIP, NOTHING WILL CHANGE.

THIS CANNOT CONTINUE
I MUST CHANGE

SO THAT I MAY PROTECT THIS COUNTRY...
AND ABOVE ALL,
PROTECT ITS PEOPLE...!

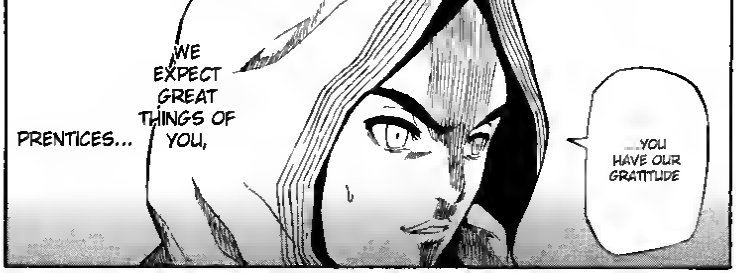
THE SAME AS HIM.
I'LL GO AS WELL.
I FEEL I'LL GROW STRONGER.
!

LET US CRUSH HIM LITTERLY "UNDERGROUND!"
OUR FOE'S THE COMMANDER'S ENEMY.
WELL, AREN'T WE SPIRITED!?

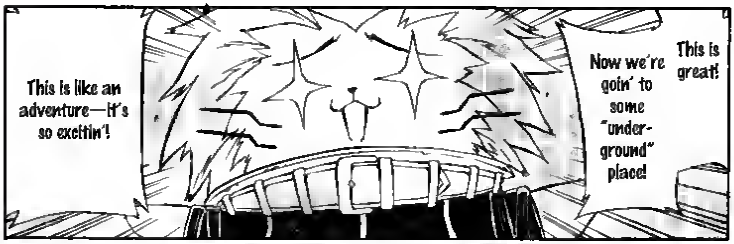
.....

SO IT SEEMS THE ONLY ONE WAVERING
WAS MYSELF.

WHO HAS NO VALOR!?
YOU'RE NOT GOING, ARE YOU, Nevalor?
I NEVER SAID I WOULD NOT GO!
W WE ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ABBOT! YOU ARE BEING A NUIS—


PRENTICES...
WE EXPECT GREAT THINGS OF YOU,
...YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE

[redacted]


This is like an adventure—it's so exciting!
Now we're goin' to some "underground" place!
This is great!

IS THAT TRULY THE UNDERGROUND...?
I CAN SEE THINGS GLITTERING BRIGHTLY
...BUT, STILL,
WE ARE NOT HERE FOR AMUSEMENT.
QUIET YOURSELF!

I WONDER WHAT MANNER OF PLACE IT IS...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE STARRY NIGHT SKY... IT'S QUITE PRETTY.
SEEMS TO BE SO...

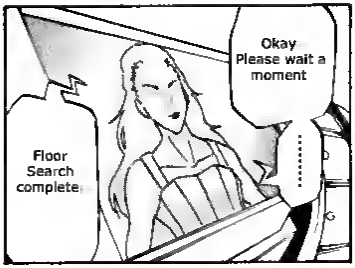
I HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE THING.
WE DESCENDED TO THIS FLOOR EXPECTING THERE TO BE SOMETHING, BUT...
HOW'RE Y'ALL GONNA GET DOWN THERE?
BY THE BY,

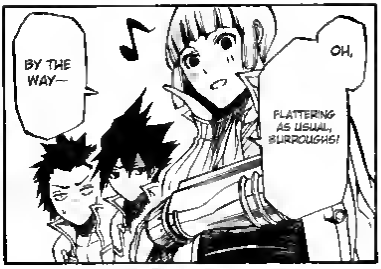
LIES SOMETHING CALLED AN OPERATING SYSTEM, OR O.S.
WITHIN THE GAUNTLET
...YOU HAVEN'T UTILIZED IT, SO YOU WOULD NOT KNOW.

WHAT ARE YOU LOT DOING?
BUR...?

BUR-ROUGHS, BEGIN
RIGHT
LET US TRY SEARCHING WITH THE GAUNTLET
ピピッ

You're looking very cute today!
Yes, Mistress Isabeau?


Okay Please wait a moment
Floor Search complete


BY THE WAY—
OH, FLATTERING AS USUAL, BURROUGHS!

!
AGHH GAH!
you'll be able to reach your target destination
From there, you head further in, and then,
You'll have to descend down that precipice somehow to get to the next floor
Okay...

THIS LAND-SCAPE...
!?
ARRANGED TOGETHER, SIDE BY SIDE...!?
THESE COUNT-LESS, TOWERING STRUC-TURES
ARE THESE BUILD-INGS!?
It's more commonly known as—
It's what you've been referring to as the "Underground."
It's an entire city, with a civilization all its own, sprawled out before you.
What's below you is not the Kingdom of Mikado.
I'll tell you the info I have in memory.

Tokyo...!
Or called—

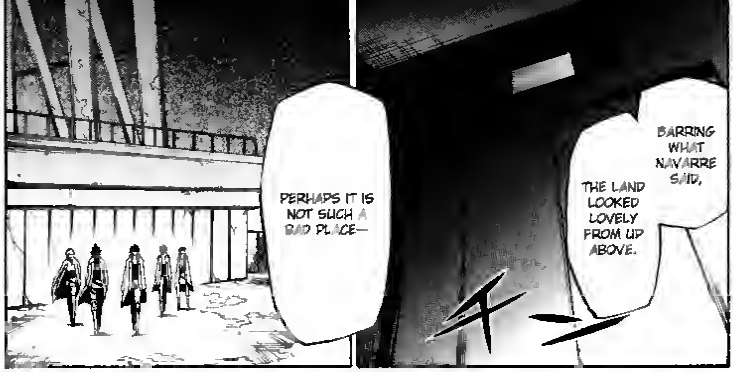
TOHKIO...
.....!

I HEAR A GREAT MANY THINGS
OH, NOTHING
I JUST RECALLED SOME RUMORS, THAT'S ALL

?
WHAT'S GOIN' ON, BUDDY?
ソワソワ

.....
A-
AT ANY RATE, SHALL WE ATTEMPT TO DESCEND?

ONES LIKE "THERE ARE UNTOLD JEWELS AND RICHES SLUMBERING BENEATH MIKADO,"
OR, "THERE EXISTS A GARDEN FILLED WITH A GREAT MULTITUDE OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN,"
AND IF THERE WERE SUCH A PLACE, THEN PERHAPS I...
ワナワナ
ワナワナ...


BARRING WHAT NAVARRE SAID,
THE LAND LOOKED LOVELY FROM UP ABOVE.
PERHAPS IT IS NOT SUCH A BAD PLACE—

...!

...WELL, MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE THAT
"IT HAS OMINOUS, SILENT ROADS..."
NOOOO ORGH!
I WASN'T PAYIN' ATTEN-TION!
!?

YOUR DEMONS ARE QUITE THE SLACKERS...!
AL!
A DEMON!?
This guy's... grip strength's... extra...
Fallen
Ronove
!!!
WHAT STRENGTH...!
...TCH!

IF YOU'VE NO DEMONS, THEN STEP ASIDE
OHOHO
SUMMON!

UNDER-STOOD!
I'LL SLAY HIM WHEN THERE'S AN OPENING!
DISTRACT HIM FOR ME!
!

!?
!?
!?
PIXIE!
YEAH♪
C'mon, take a good look♡
Huhaha!
Go, Tangata Manu!
It's my turn, now!
?
Go, already!
Yes, him! That one!
ふん…

DRE-
AM
NEE-
DLE!
M-HM...
ROAAAR
!!!
RIGHT THEN...
CRUSH HIM,
FOMORIAN!

!
ALI

NOOR
0084
...PHEW. WE SOMEHOW—
!?
TAP TAP TAP TAP...
WH...
HOY, IS IT SOME JEWELS OR LASSES..?